

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1248

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, US
SUBJECT: SUGGESTED PROTEST AGAINST GOC ANTI-US ACTIONS

REF STATE 106842

1. SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF THE RECENT INCREASE IN VOLUME AND INTENSITY OF ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA IN CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA, WE HAD BEEN CONSIDERING MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROTESTING. WE SUGGEST IT WOULD BE BEST TO TREAT ACCUSATION AGAINST WARNER IN BROADER CONTEXT OF A GENERAL PROTEST TO BE MADE IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL SUGGESTS RESPONSE TO ESPIONAGE ACCUSATION BY RADIO PRAGUE AGAINST FORMER EMBASSY PAO WARNER, WHICH WAS BASICALLY A REPEAT OF EARLIER NEWSPAPER STORIES AND IS ONLY A FACET OF THE RECENT UPSWING IN ANTI-US PROPAGANDA. THE SCOPE OF PROPAGANDA ATTACKS IS BROADENING EACH DAY AND HAS COME TO THE POINT OF DIRECT ATTACKS ON CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIALS AND EVEN THE PRESIDENT.

3. FOR EXAMPLE, YOUTH NEWSPAPER MLADA FRONTA APRIL 28 ACCUSED TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL OF BEING: "...A SHAMELESS, FRANK CAPITALIST WITH ONLY ONE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL AIM -- TO MAKE AND USE MONEY." THE MOST DIRECT, HIGH-LEVEL ATTACK SO FAR ON PRESIDENT CARTER CAME MAY 5 FROM CZECHOSLOVAK CP SECRFGARY JAN FOJTIK IN ADDRESSING A MEETING OF TOP PETTY AND GOVERNMENT
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OFFICIALS AND SOVIET DIGNITARIES CELEBRATING "LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE SOVIET ARMY." IN ADDITION TO A FAIRLY STANDARD ACCUSATION AGAINST THE US FOR HAVING FAILED SO FAR TO RETURN GOLD SEIZED BY NAZI OCCUPIERS, FOJTIK CLAIMED THAT "ANTI-COMMUNIST DEMAGOGY...HELPED HITLER TO PREPARE A CRUEL BLOOD BATH FOR NATIONS..." AND ALLEGED THAT A NEW ANTI-COMMUNIST "HOLY ALLIANCE"

IS BEING FORMED. "WE ARE" HE SAID, "DOUBLY ALARMED THAT THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT JAMES (SIC) CARTER HAS PLACED HIMSELF AT THE HEAD OF THE NEW CRUSADE AGAINST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." HE LATER REFERRED SLIGHTINGLY TO THE "CARTERS OF THE WORLD" WHO SHOULD FIRST "SWEEP THEIR OWN DOORSTEPS" IN THEIR CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. IN ADDITION TO THESE SLURS DIRECTED AT INDIVIDUAL LEADERS, THE US HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN UNDER A CONCENTRATED PRESS AND PETITION BARRAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THE GABRIEL CASE AND WE ANTICIPATE

THE SCREENING HERE VERY SHORTLY OF A TV FILM ACCUSATION OF US ESPIONAGE HERE IN THE 1960'S.

5. IN VIEW OF THE BROAD SCOPE OF THE CURRENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE US, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE TIMELY TO MAKE A GENERAL PROTEST WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ONLY A REFERENCE TO THE WARNER CASE, RATHER THAN SINGLING IT OUT FOR WHAT WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY A PRO FORMA DENIAL THAT WOULD NOT REACH THE MEDIA THERE. FOR US TO MAKE SUCH A PROTEST HERE WOULD NOT HAVE THE IMPACT THAT IT WOULD HAVE COMING FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR LEVEL OF THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH WOULD EMPHASIZE THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE USG WAS BEHIND THE PROTEST. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER CALLING IN AN APPROPRIATE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY OFFICER TO POINT OUT THE DAMAGE THAT CONTINUATION OF THIS CAMPAIGN CAN HAVE ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. PLEASE ADVISE.
BYRNE

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